

Kelly joins states opposing Trump’s military deployment

Staff report

Gov. Laura Kelly joined an amicus brief with leaders from 20 states supporting California’s request for a court order blocking the president’s federalization and deployment of that state’s National Guard.

“The United States of America is founded on the rule of law, including respect for states’ rights. The federalization of the California National Guard by President Trump, without the coordination of the Governor of California, is a violation of states’ rights,” Kelly said.

“President Trump’s actions constitute a threat to the authority of the nation’s governors to command their National Guards. I joined this brief to preserve state sovereignty and halt federalization of state National Guards without the coordination of their governors.”

The amicus brief outlines how Trump’s action is inconsistent with the nation’s founding principle that freedom depends on the subordination of the military to civilian authority.

“By calling forth troops when there is no invasion to repel, no rebellion to suppress, and when state and local law

enforcement is fully able to execute the laws, the President flouts the vision of our Founders, undermines the rule of law, and sets a chilling precedent that puts the constitutional rights of Americans in every state at risk,” the brief reads.

The president’s memo federalizing the Guard does not restrict these actions to just Los Angeles, California, or any specific U.S. region. Instead, it is an unlimited claim of presidential authority to deploy the National Guards of any state for the next 60 days.

The National Guard is available to the

states on an ongoing basis. They provide critical services responding to natural disasters, counter-drug operations, and cybersecurity support, among other daily contributions to public safety.

The brief is led by Washington Attorney General Nick Brown and Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings. Others joining are the state attorneys general of Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Judge says Trump takeover of California National Guard ‘illegal’

Wire report

A federal judge in California late Thursday ordered President Donald Trump to relinquish command of 4,000 National Guard troops the president called to help contain Los Angeles protests over immigration raids.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer said Trump’s mobilization of the National Guard was illegal, and ordered the return of control to California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who had opposed the deployment. He said his order would go into effect noon Pacific time Friday, likely setting up an emergency appeal by the administration.

Trump’s “actions were illegal—both exceeding the scope of his statutory authority and violating the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution,” Breyer wrote.

He issued the 36-page order mere hours after an afternoon hearing at which

he appeared skeptical that Trump’s order was lawful.

Breyer at the hearing appeared not to accept the Trump administration’s argument that obtaining consent from Newsom, a Democrat, was not a prerequisite to federalize the California National Guard.

Newsom has been backed up by Democratic attorneys general across the nation in the closely watched case.

Breyer noted the law Trump cited when mobilizing the troops requires the order to go through a state’s governor, but Trump’s order bypassed Newsom and went directly to the adjutant general of the California National Guard.

“I’m trying to figure out how something is through somebody if, in fact, you didn’t give it to him, you actually sent it to the adjutant general,” Breyer said. “It would be the first time I’ve ever seen something going through somebody if it never went to them directly.”

U.S. Justice Department attorney Brett Shumate, who argued for the administration, said Newsom’s approval was not necessary for the commander-in-chief to call National Guard troops into service.

“There’s no consultation requirement, pre-approval requirement,” he said. “The governor is merely a conduit. He’s not a roadblock. The president doesn’t have to call up the governor, invite them to Camp David, ‘Let’s have a summit, negotiate for a week about what are the terms that we’re going to call up the National Guard in your state, what are the terms of the deployment?’”

The president alone can determine whether the conditions allowing for the federalization of the National Guard are met, Shumate said.

But Breyer, who was appointed by Democratic President Bill Clinton, said the president faced more limits on his authority than Shumate had argued.

“That’s the difference between a

constitutional government and King George,” Breyer said.

Nicholas Green, who argued on behalf of the state, called the federal government’s argument “breathtaking in scope,” in part because the troops appear to be assisting in domestic law enforcement.

“They are saying, Your Honor, that the president, by fiat, can federalize the National Guard and deploy it in the streets of a civilian city whenever he perceives that there is disobedience to an order,” Green told Breyer. “That is an expansive, dangerous conception of federal executive power.”

Breyer seemed less opposed to Trump’s order to deploy 700 U.S. Marines to the area, noting those troops are not yet on the ground in Los Angeles and, as federal troops, were already under Trump’s command without needing to satisfy any other criteria.

Breyer’s order Thursday night did not direct any action regarding the Marines.

Fort

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Kelly said her father was a career Army officer, and she grew up on Army posts around the country and in Germany and Japan.

Kelly said she knows the dedication and resilience required of military personnel and their families.

The fort’s celebration on Friday included multiple activities such as a dodge ball tournament

and an Army history quiz bowl as well as a cake cutting ceremony.

The proclamation signed by Kelly recognized both Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley as two of the most historic and longstanding installations of the Army.

As they celebrated the Army’s 250th birthday, people at Fort Leavenworth were looking ahead, Beagle said.

“In just two short years, Fort Leavenworth will celebrate its 200th birthday,” he said.



Gov. Laura Kelly shakes hands with Lt. Gen. Milford Beagle Jr. on Friday at Fort Leavenworth. *John Richmeier*



Gov. Laura Kelly speaks with Lt. Gen. Milford Beagle Jr. before the start of a proclamation signing ceremony Friday at Fort Leavenworth. *John Richmeier*

Obituaries

LUIS RODRIGUEZ

Luis D. Rodriguez, 88, Glenwood IL, passed away on May 24, 2025 at Homestead Assisted Living. A visitation will be Monday, June 16, 2025 at 10 am to 12 pm at the funeral home. Graveside services will follow at 12:30 pm with military honors at Leavenworth National cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Belden Larkin funeral home.

ROBERT HALL

Robert D. “Bob” Hall passed away peacefully on June 9, 2025. Bob was born on January 3, 1936. Bob lived on his farm in Lansing with his wife Sylvia until his passing. He loved taking care of the farm. Bob was a well-respected and loved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Bob is survived by his wife, Sylvia, son, Rob Hall (Sandy deceased), daughter, Lori Hickey (Ed), and daughter Staci Barthol (Bryan).

“God received a good man and farmer to tend his flocks.”

There will be a celebration of life at a later date. Condolences may be left on Robert’s online guestbook at www.davisfuneralchapelinc.com. Arrangements entrusted to Davis Funeral Chapel.

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